GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:200
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2007
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds allocated for Research and Development (R and D) under the Ministry during the year 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 was under-utilised though the budget allocation is being enhanced every year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether due to non-utilisation of funds, all the on-going R and D programmes are getting adversely affected resulting in non-completion of the project under the schemes; and

(d) if so, the efforts being made to ensure timely and judicious utilisation of the amount allocated for R and D?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF- UD- DIN SOZ)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 200 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 12.03.07 REGARDING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) & (b) Under the scheme for Research and Development (R&D) of the Ministry of Water Resources, various research organisations/academic institutions are provided assistance for taking up research in specific areas of water resources. The support is provided by way of grants to academic/research organisations. The scheme also has a component for providing assistance for organisation of workshops / symposiums / seminars etc. on important issues related to water resources and mass awareness programmes.

The budget allocations in the last three years for the above scheme were Rs 6.00 crore for 2004-05, Rs 10.00 crore for 2005-06 and Rs 14.96 crore for 2006-07. The expenditure in the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 were Rs 3.00 crore and Rs 7.63 crore respectively. The revised estimate for the year 2006-07 is Rs 10.10 crore. The allocated fund could not be utilised fully mainly due to (a) non-receipt of expected number of proposals from research organisations / academic institutions; (b) non-recommendation of some of the proposals; and (c) non-submission of the requisite progress report of the on-going schemes; and (d) delay in submission of proposal for release of next installment etc.

(c) & (d) The research activities are primarily undertaken by premier organisations of the Ministry i.e., Central Water and Power Research Station, Pune, Central Soil and Materials Research Station, New Delhi, National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee and Central Ground Water Board. The scheme for R&D as stated above is to provide incentive to various academic/research organisations which helps in addressing specific issues. The overall objectives of R&D are not adversely affected as the major activities related to research are undertaken by premier research institutes. Various measures are taken by the Ministry to ensure timely utilisation of funds earmarked to research judiciously. These measures include examination of proposal by Indian National Committees, monitoring of the progress, evaluation of reports etc.